Introduction of Exclusive Educational Channel

1163. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce exclusive educational channel to bridge the gap from the illiterate, neo-literate, educated to the highly educated;

(b) if so, the approximate expenditure therefor; and

(c) the source of funding for such a channel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to start an Educational Channel. The channel will cater to students at all levels viz. — Primary, Secondary and Higher as also Open and Distance Education and will help in bridging the literacy related gaps amongst various sections of society. Modalities relating to the various aspects of the Channel including its funding are still being worked out and, as such, details in this regard cannot be indicated at present.

Opening of New TV and Radio Stations

1164. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government could achieve the target of opening of new TV and Radio Stations in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the proposals during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?